machinery demand will continue to lag much of the rest of the world in per-capita terms. The complete report has not been obtained by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have initiated steps to boost the growth of food processing sector through its various policy initiatives and number of schemes under the Tenth Five Year Plan. As per the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) Report, this sector is slated for growth at 10.1% if GDP growth is at 8%. These developments taken togetherwith Plan Scheme interventions of the Ministry for subsidizing the cost of plant and machinery in food processing industries, *inter-alia* also encourage the sector.

Export of processed foods

3176. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether increased food safety norms would help in improving the exports of Rs. 25,00,000 million agro products and processed food products;

(b) if so, whether India's share in global agro-products market is $ 6 billion, considered to be too small and negligible, and with increased focus on food safety norms, exports can rise further; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to help the processed food exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) National Codex Committee of the Government of India is engaged, on a continuous basis, in recommending Food Safety norms for all food products including agro and processed food products so that they are accepted for exports resulting in increased exports.

(c) Steps to help the agri-products and the processed foods export sector include *inter-alia* financial assistance to exporters by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

under the Scheme of quality control, setting up of in house quality control laboratory and implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) in processing units, conducting awareness programme on quality assurance and quality management system and training programme on food safety norms, developing packaging for export of various food products and setting up of agri export zones in geographically contiguous areas in different States. In addition, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its Plan Scheme, also provides financial assistance to food processing industries for implementation of total quality management including ISO 9000, HACCP etc. and also to establish Quality Control Laboratories in the Country.

Operationalising food parks in States

3177. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food parks sanctioned to be set up in various States so far, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for slow progress in operationalising the food parks; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to ensure that all the conditions necessary for the success of food parks, are put in place quickly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The Ministry, under its Plan Scheme, provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to Public Sector Undertakings/Joint/Assisted/Private Sector/Non Governmental Organizations/Cooperatives for creation of specific common facilities in Food Parks. So far, 36 food parks have been approved for grant of financial assistance in different States. A statement indicating the State-wise break-up of the number of food parks approved, is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Operationalising of food parks depends, *inter-alia* on managerial, financial and tactical issues related to the project. Most of the food parks were approved during the last two years. There is progress in construction work in several food parks. On its part, the Ministry has undertaken comprehensive review of the progress of food park projects,